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Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S)

306-C-00-13-00018

Monthly Report: August 2015



This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Chemonics International, Inc.

Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S)

Monthly Report: August 2015

Submission Date: September 15, 2015

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Name of Prime Implementing Partner:
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Name of Subcontractors:
Afghan Development Association (ADA)
Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)
Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)
Equal Access (EA)

Activity Start Date: October, 2013

Activity End Date: October, 2018

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Afghan Development Association
APS	Annual Program Statement
CBPP	Contagious Bovine Pleura Pneumonia
CCHF	Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
FAIDA	Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
EA	Equal Access
EEU	Enabling Environment Unit
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
HVC	High Value Crop
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KCPC	Khursan Cub Fish Production Company
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSA	Public Short Announcement
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
RALS	Root Agricultural and Livestock Services
SSG	Sayed Sadat Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZNAC	Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company

Cover Photo: Women entrepreneurs viewing display items at the RADP-S Women in Agribusiness Networking Conference.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.1 Program Description

The purpose of the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan. To accomplish this goal, RADP-S focuses on improving the productivity and profitability of the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains, while addressing policy, legal and regulatory constraints affecting value chain development. This agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel sustainable long term economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.

The implementation approach of RADP-S dovetails with Afghan and U.S. government strategies in its focus on advancing food security, regenerating agribusiness, and increasing agriculture sector jobs and incomes. RADP-S aims to strengthen the capacity of producers, associations, traders, and agribusinesses to respond to market demands; facilitate lasting market linkages between value chain actors; and support an enabling environment that allows the private sector to thrive. The program places the Afghan private sector at the forefront of implementation and addresses key crosscutting issues of women's empowerment, agribusiness value chain facilitation, and alternative development in all facets of the program. Embodying USAID's vision for sustainable Afghan-led development, RADP-S lays the foundation for greater and more socially inclusive growth in the agricultural economy.

I.2 Summary of Key Accomplishments during Reporting Period

- 6,014 farmers provided wheat crop rotation strategies to improve soil quality and contribute to increased wheat productivity.
- 6,861 farmers trained in orchard integrated pest management (IPM), vegetable maintenance, and vineyard water management, promoting cultivation techniques that increase high value crop yields.
- Conducted the Women in Agribusiness Networking Conference, bringing together 85 women entrepreneurs and facilitating 36 business-to-business meetings to connect agribusinesses within the high value crop value chain.
- Completion of the Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company (ZNAC) promotional activities which connected ZNAC to 67 grape growers in Kandahar province.
- 648 women and 521 men trained in the prevention and control of blood parasitic diseases, liver fluke, hemorrhagic septicemia and Contagious Bovine Pleura Pneumonia to improve animal care practices, promote vaccinations, and decrease animal mortality rates.
- 41 RADP-S supported veterinary field units vaccinated 31,366 animals and medicated 39,847 animals against common diseases to decrease livestock mortality.
- Completion of the Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd (MEL) and Sayed Sadat Group (SSG) promotional activities which connected 215 cattle owners to MEL feeding inputs and 114 broiler farmers to SSG broiler equipment and medicines.

- 296 girls and teachers taught in business development, marketing, and communications skills through the Taraqi Saba curriculum. Taraqi Saba gives girls skills meant to enhance economic opportunities and greater self-efficacy.

I.3 Summary of Major Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges to Summer Vegetable Cultivation

RADP-S encountered multiple vegetable cultivation challenges during the summer growing season. From May to August, RADP-S promoted the cultivation of cucumbers, tomatoes, bell peppers, and eggplants. Vegetables were first grown in seedling trays and then transplanted to an open field or the demonstration farm greenhouse. With temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) during the summer months, many of the vegetables did not survive drought-like conditions. Vegetables transplanted into greenhouses fared worse given increased temperatures in the enclosed space. RADP-S's challenge is finding vegetable varieties able to produce through long, hot summers, when vegetables generally need milder environments. By August, RADP-S found that eggplants are a durable summer vegetable, producing well in all four provinces.

As a result of this finding, RADP-S will make two changes in the next growing season. First, RADP-S will promote the use of low tunnels over greenhouses. Low tunnels are a flexible and cost-effective technology that allows farmers to extend the growing season and adjust as necessary given growing conditions. Second, RADP-S will explore summer vegetable varieties in year three that are better able to withstand the climate of southern Afghanistan.

Lack of Women's Agribusinesses in the South

In preparation for the Women in Agribusiness Networking Conference, RADP-S surveyed women-owned agribusinesses in the south and found a significant lack thereof, most evident in Uruzgan and Zabul provinces. RADP-S determined that strengthening women's entrepreneurship through associations and cooperatives would provide women with greater business development, marketing, and promotion opportunities. In August, RADP-S initiated a monthly capacity building training for women's associations. The first training provided an overview of management techniques and loan products available through coordination with the Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) project. By strengthening women's associations, RADP-S will support women's participation in the private sector and business growth initiatives.

Partnership with the Roots Agricultural and Livestock Services

In August, RADP-S awarded Roots Agricultural and Livestock Services (RALS) a grant to establish a one jerib orchard showcasing their stock of high density saplings. The orchard will serve as a demonstration site, connecting the company to farmers interested in buying saplings and other input products. The establishment of the orchard was initially planned for October 2015. However, RADP-S's technical recommendation is that the company plant saplings in February, when the plant is dormant. As a result, the RALS activities will begin in February 2016. RADP-S will provide RALS with additional training in January to ensure compliance with RADP-S M&E and administrative requirements. The time lapse between award and implementation will be avoided in the future by ensuring the activity correlates with the growing season as closely as possible.

2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Wheat Value Chain

Farmer Trainings in Wheat Topics

In August, RADP-S master trainers led field demonstrations of wheat crop rotation to 6,014 farmers in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. Demonstration farms planted alfalfa and mung beans in former wheat plots to increase soil nitrogen levels. Crop rotation practices act as a natural, mechanical pest management practice. Insect infestations and the propagation of certain plant diseases naturally decrease with the introduction of a new crop species. Demonstration trainings will show farmers the effects of crop rotation in the coming months as soil compaction decreases, weeds and pests are reduced, and balanced soil nutrients increase the production of wheat during the winter season.



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Master Trainer shows alfalfa crop rotated with wheat on Qalat demo farm in Zabul.

Wheat Harvest Results on District Demonstration Farms

RADP-S demonstration farms planted wheat in May and harvested in June or July, depending on crop maturity. In Helmand, Kandahar, and Zabul provinces, demonstration farms planted wheat in both the broadcast and row method to compare yields. In Uruzgan province, wheat was planted only in the broadcast method, but also showed significant yield improvements. On average, the row method provided greater yields than the broadcast method. However both methods resulted in greater yields than traditional planting methods, which do not take into account IPM, consistent fertilizer application, and proper irrigation techniques. Below are general findings from RADP-S's analysis of demonstration farm wheat yields:

- *Helmand Province:* Traditional planting methods in Helmand province result in average wheat yields of 600 kilograms per jerib. Demonstration farms practicing RADP-S cultivation techniques produced on average 74 percent more wheat (1,045 kilograms per jerib) utilizing the broadcast method and 90 percent more wheat (1,139 kilograms per jerib) utilizing the row method.
- *Kandahar Province:* Traditional planting methods in Kandahar province result in average wheat yields of 540 kilograms per jerib (except Daman district which yields 150 kilograms per jerib due to more desert-like conditions). Demonstration farms practicing RADP-S cultivation techniques produced on average 78 percent more wheat (823 kilograms per jerib) utilizing the broadcast method and 82 percent more wheat (840 kilograms per jerib) utilizing the row method.
- *Zabul Province:* Traditional planting methods in Zabul province result in average wheat yields of 613 kilograms per jerib. Demonstration farms practicing RADP-S cultivation techniques produced on average 31 percent more wheat (799 kilograms per jerib) utilizing

the broadcast method and 47 percent more wheat (899 kilograms per jerib) utilizing the row method.

- *Uruzgan Province:* Traditional planting methods in Uruzgan province result in average wheat yields of 583 kilograms per jerib. Demonstration farms practicing RADP-S cultivation techniques produced on average 103 percent more wheat (1,185 kilograms per jerib) utilizing the broadcast method. Demonstration farms in Uruzgan province did not plant in the row method for comparison as instructed by RADP-S.

Wheat yields on demonstration farms provide a benchmark for RADP-S beneficiary farmers. RADP-S anticipates increasing productivity for wheat farmers by at least 20 percent. Demonstration farm results indicate the potential for wheat productivity to be much higher when modern farming techniques are applied.

Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Classroom Trainings on Wheat Plant Establishment
- Annual Program Statement Workshops in Uruzgan and Zabul with wheat agribusinesses to promote private sector partnerships

2.2 High Value Crops Value Chain

Farmer Trainings in High Value Crop Topics

During the reporting period, RADP-S led classroom sessions for 6,861 farmers in integrated pest management (IPM) and weed control for orchard crops, and provided demonstration trainings on field vegetable maintenance and vineyard water management. Classroom trainings on weed control for orchard crops focused on environmentally friendly pest management strategies. Master trainers taught farmers how to scout for pests and disease, and showed the proper tools to identify early signs of infestation. The training stressed the health risks of using agrochemicals which cause environmental contamination and leave residue on the crop.

Field trainings on vegetable cultivation provided three methods for supporting plants, the use of stakes, cages and trellising. Master trainers demonstrated trellising systems to support tomato and cucumber plants, keeping the crops off the ground. Vegetable maintenance demonstrations showed the removal of excess shoots, leaves, and flowers as well as the pruning of leaves. These techniques lead to larger and earlier vegetable germination, increasing crop yield. Vineyard water management trainings demonstrated the effects of water deficiency, which leads to stunted plant growth and lower grape yields. RADP-S also introduced farmers to mulching as a way to conserve water and control weeds. August trainings stressed simple techniques that increase the yield potential of each plant. Increasing HVC production is critical to RADP-S's implementation approach, which highlights the potential of HVCs to increase household incomes.



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Vineyard water management training in Zheri, Kandahar.

Completion of High Value Crop Company Grantees Activities

During the reporting period, Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company (ZNAC) completed promotional activities that educated farmers on the benefits of vineyard IPM and disease control and linked ZNAC to farmers in Kandahar province. ZNAC taught 67 farmers how to identify parasitic and non-parasitic diseases and showed ZNAC biological and chemical controls available to address vineyard diseases. The company specifically advertised chemical spray equipment and protective clothing for farmers to use during the process. Through these RADP-S facilitated meetings with farmers and training of trainers provided to ZNAC's company staff, ZNAC now has the capacity to educate customers on the benefits of IPM and the advantages of their products.

Women in Agribusiness Networking Conference

On August 3, RADP-S hosted the Women in Agribusiness Networking Conference in Kabul City. The conference promoted the economic development of women-owned agribusinesses through partnerships with RADP-S, relevant government agencies, and most importantly, through business-to-business linkages. In total, 85 women entrepreneurs from Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Herat, Kabul, and Nangahar provinces participated in the conference. These women entrepreneurs represented producers, processors, sellers, and exporters of fresh and dried fruits, vegetables, jams, pickles, and saffron. More than 20 businesswomen displayed over 50 different food items, and showcased the diversity of products from the southern regions and Kabul.



USAID/RADP-S

Business-to-Business meetings were held to identify potential market linkages.

The conference opened with speeches from Ms. Nasima Niazi, Member of Parliament from Helmand province and Ms. Shakiba Hashimi, Member of Parliament from Kandahar province. Both parliamentarians stressed the importance of supporting women-owned businesses in the south to expand their market presence. A panel discussion with representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Export Promotional Agency for Afghanistan, and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock allowed the business women to ask questions regarding government services and programs that support women entrepreneurs.

RADP-S also facilitated 36 business-to-business meetings which allowed business women to identify potential market linkages and partnerships. Sellers interested in products from the south or producers looking for unique packaging materials connected to discuss areas of collaboration. RADP-S will be following all business deals made as a result of the conference.

Helmand Province Pre-APS Workshops

In August, RADP-S held three pre-Annual Program Statement (APS) workshops with interested agribusinesses from the high value crop, wheat, and livestock value chains. Sixteen HVC businesses, representing traders, agrochemical companies, and fruit and vegetable associations attended the Helmand HVC workshop. The workshop provided businesses with information on the objectives of the APS, how to prepare concept notes and budgets, and how to create an activities timeline. In discussions, HVC agribusiness in Helmand listed the limited access farmers

have to market actors as their biggest constraint. Similar workshops were held with 14 agribusinesses operating in the livestock value chain and 15 agribusinesses working in the wheat value chain. Through these meetings, RADP-S aims to identify private sector partners willing to create and strengthen linkages between producers and other private sector actors.

Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Orchard Water Management Classroom Training
- Greenhouse Establishment Classroom Training
- Vineyard Establishment Classroom Training
- Annual Program Statement Workshops in Uruzgan and Zabul with HVC agribusinesses to promote private sector partnerships
- Management Development Training to the Kandahar Dry Fruit Association

2.3 Livestock Value Chain

Farmer Extension Groups

Farmer extension groups (FEGs) in the 15 targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul received training on the prevention and control of common large ruminant diseases. The first session focused on the transmission and signs of blood parasitic diseases and liver fluke. Preventing blood parasitic diseases through the elimination of ticks was stressed as well as medicating animals against liver fluke. FEGs also learned the signs and treatment options for hemorrhagic septicemia and Contagious Bovine Pleura Pneumonia (CBPP) diseases. In total 1,169 FEG members were trained, 648 women and 532 men. FEGs are led by extension agents who educate livestock owners on ensuring the timely treatment of animals. By promoting vaccinations and medications available at local veterinary field units, extensions agents stress the importance of animal health. Reducing livestock mortality has important implications for rural families who benefit from the in-take and sale of animal by-products like meat, milk, and eggs.



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A farmer extension group in Daman, Kandahar.

Livestock Health Services

During the month of August, all 41 RADP-S supported veterinary field units (VFUs) in 15 targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces continued the provision of animal health service delivery to livestock farmers in their communities. During the reporting period, the VFUs medicated 39,847 animals, vaccinated 31,366 animals against anthrax, enterotoxaemia, hemorrhagic septicemia, FMD (foot and mouth disease), shoat pox, and Newcastle disease, and delivered other veterinary services to 782 animals.

Refresher Trainings for Paravets

In the month of August, RADP-S key implementing partners Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) continued to provide refresher training courses for RADP-S supported paravets and staff

from Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL). The first refresher training course covered “Nutrition and Ration Calculation.” In total, 12 paravets and four DAIL staff attended and learned the digestive anatomy of cattle, making standard feed, analyzing cow body conditions, and feeding schedules for cows, sheep, goats, and camels. The second training focused on “Dairy Health, Production, and Metabolic Diseases,” and trained an additional 13 paravets and three DAIL staff from the targeted provinces. DCA informed paravets on feeding schedules to increase milk production, the chemical composition of milk, milk testing in the field, and the care of newborn calves and calf diseases. Refresher trainings give paravets the opportunity to build upon their knowledge and skills with new techniques in animal health practice. Paravets are also better equipped to deliver quality care and individualized consultations.

Completion of Livestock Company Promotional Activities

During the month of August, the Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd (MEL) and Sayed Sadat Group (SSG) completed promotional activities. RADP-S verified 215 MEL trainees and 114 SSG trainees from Kandahar province. During promotional trainings, MEL brought together cattle owners and provided information on: the definition of feed, importance of balance ration, feed block preparation, and urea treatment preparation. MEL educated farmers on these techniques and showcased their feeding products to cattle owners. SSG taught chicken farmers how to manage broiler farms, poultry medicine usage and treatment, and developing effective feed systems. SSG also provided chicken farmers lessons on how to administer SSG medicines and how to set up broiler equipment to promote healthy chickens. Livestock companies taught the advantages of using their products and the direct engagement with farmers provided opportunities for creating a reliable customer base for these companies.



USAID/RADP-S

Farmers examine nutritious cow feed offered by Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd.



USAID/RADP-S

Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse demonstrates feeding and watering systems to chicken farmers.

Livestock Company Promotional Activities Begin

During the reporting period, three livestock companies began promotional activities to connect with local farmers interested in their products. The Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm trained farmers on modern chicken farming principles and feeding and drinking systems for chickens. The Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House began training for broiler farmers in Dand, Daman, Panjwai, and Zheri districts of Kandahar province which covered the design of poultry farms, ventilation systems, feeding, lighting, watering, vaccination, and medication. In addition, the Khurasan Cub Fish

Production Company (KCPC) also initiated its theoretical and practical trainings for fish farmers in Dand, Daman, Panjwai, Arghandab and Zheri districts of Kandahar province. During the KCPC

training the following topics were covered: fish propagation, varieties of fishes, fingerling production from fish eggs, preparation of fish ponds, and the identification and control of fish diseases.

Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Continuation of Ahamad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm, Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughterhouse, and Khurasan Cub Fish Production promotional activities
- Paravet refresher trainings on “Ruminant Nutrition” and “Dairy health, production, metabolic nutrition, and avian influenza”
- Annual Program Statement Workshops in Uruzgan and Zabul with livestock agribusinesses to promote private sector partnerships
- VFU kit distribution to second round paravet graduates

2.4 Enabling Environment

Additional Revision of National Horticulture Policy

During the reporting period, RADP-S completed and submitted another round of revisions for the National Horticulture Policy. In July, RADP-S recommended the inclusion of a three-tiered horticulture extension system that included private sector, public sector, and international donor collaboration. In August, RADP-S provided three major recommendations:

- The first recommendation stressed horticulture production, extension services, and research. This change allows the government to promote the commercialization of government owned land, establish on-farm and seed gene banks to ensure the preservation of horticulture crops, establish a national training center for female agriculture extension agents, and promote Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to establish horticulture research institutions.
- The second modification deals with marketing, trade, and value additions to the government. This modification authorizes the government to eliminate punitive tariffs through different incentives such as reduced corporate and personal income taxes, subsidized air freight and road transport rates, and creating markets to promote secondary services and industries. Farmers would also be provided trainings on export standards through the dissemination of publicity materials.
- The third revision directly impacts infrastructure and building the capacity of the horticulture sector. Under this component, the government will promote PPP and private investments in horticulture infrastructure development, train women in new horticulture approaches, ensure effective regulation of agro-chemicals to enhance horticulture production, and oversee the harmonization of horticulture laws through inter-ministerial coordination.

Enabling Environment Survey

During the reporting period, RADP-S surveyed farmers in all four provinces on enabling environment issues to inform the upcoming constraints analyses RADP-S will conduct in year three. The survey sought information on the role of respondents in various value chains, and identified the types of crops respondents grow, as well as most and least profitable crops in the

local market. In total, RADP-S conducted 70 enabling environment surveys in Kandahar, 60 surveys in Uruzgan, 35 surveys in Zabul, and 120 surveys in Helmand.

Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Field a Senior Advisor to MAIL, pending guidance from USAID

2.5 Cross-cutting Themes

2.5.1 Gender

Taraqi Saba Entrepreneurship Training

In August, RADP-S gender specialists conducted Taraqi Saba entrepreneurship trainings for 296 students and teachers in six girls' high schools in Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, and Helmand provinces. The objective is to help students and teachers generate business ideas and develop business plans. The curriculum is designed to raise awareness of business activities, help women and girls acquire business skills, develop complementary communications and negotiation skills, and present preliminary business plans. In providing these trainings, RADP-S will enhance opportunities for women and girls to participate in agribusiness activities, gain expertise in product development, marketing, and other promotional skills including business presentation and team building.

Association Management Training

RADP-S conducted an Association Management training for 15 women-led associations in Kandahar City. The two-day training gave an overview of how to run an association, and covered everything from financial management to personnel and organizational structures. The purpose of these trainings is to build the capacity of women's groups and give them the opportunity to network. This training marks the beginning of a year-long effort for RADP-S to train women's association members and build their capacity in a range of issues. At the end of the training, the business women requested more in-depth trainings on: marketing, budgeting, leadership, committee development, monitoring and evaluation, loan processes, and strategic planning which RADP-S plans to provide.



USAID/RADP-S

Women's associations participate in management training in Kandahar City.

Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Rollout of the Agribusiness Empowerment program, which combines the Taraqi Saba curriculum, nutrition, and vegetable cultivation trainings into one. The training will occur in six girls high schools and four DOWAs.
- Evaluation of re-bids for the establishment of the Kandahar DOWA farm

2.5.2 Communications and Outreach

Live Call-In Radio Broadcasts and Public Short Announcements

During the reporting period, RADP-S broadcasted 16 episodes of the “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” radio program in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces. The radio program covered the following topics: orchard IPM and weed control, grape storage, orchard post-harvest management, and livestock ruminal acidosis disease. RADP-S aired a ten minute segment related to women’s role in stone fruit management and the nutritional benefits of stone fruit.

In addition, RADP-S broadcasted Public Short Announcements (PSAs) in all four provinces. The broadcasted PSAs covered almond harvesting, vineyard water deficiency, the effects of heat stress on livestock, vegetable phosphorus function and deficiency, figs harvest maturity, pomegranate harvest maturity, vineyard irrigation stages, and pomegranate harvesting.

Mobile Theatre Performances

During the month of August, eleven mobile theatre performances were conducted in four targeted districts of Kandahar, Zabul, and Helmand provinces. The mobile theatre performances covered high value crop vegetable nutrition. The story follows Golo, a comedic character, who accidentally pulls out all the vegetables in his father’s greenhouse. Golo and his father are given information by an agricultural specialist on how to increase vegetable production even more in the following year through proper cultivation timing, irrigation, and nutrition. More than 1,000 spectators participated in a show in Arghandab district of Kandahar province and approximately 2,930 spectators attended performances overall. Ghulam Hassan, a shepherd and spectator of a mobile theatre performance in Kandahar said, “It was such a nice and useful program. During the theatre performance I learned how to properly use animal manure for farming purposes. I really enjoyed the show.”



USAID/RADP-S

Mobile theatre performance in Arghandab district of Kandahar Province.

Listening Circles



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Listening circle in Nawa district of Helmand Province.

During the reporting period, a total of 45 listening circle sessions were conducted in all 15 targeted districts for wheat, HVC, and livestock farmers. Participants listened to radio broadcasts on wheat post-harvest management, vineyard water management, and livestock mastitis. During these listening circles, ADA and CHA master trainers and DCA livestock specialists were also present and provided technical guidance to farmers.

Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- Launch of the “Women and Agricultural Change” radio program in Kandahar and Helmand provinces
- Mobile Theatre Performances on pomegranate post-harvest care

2.5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period, the M&E team monitored 106 farmer training and gender activities conducted in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. Over the last few months, the M&E team has successfully migrated information to a more sophisticated database to better track and monitor RADP-S beneficiaries and training. The new database is user friendly, and offers additional controls for data security, access, and analysis. The database is currently being customized with the introduction of a variety of output reports that enable project managers to review progress against selected project indicators in real time.

Site visits are detailed in Annex II. RADP-S's M&E team found that multiple trainings in August were attended by underage participants, most likely accompanying their parents to a training. As a result of this finding, RADP-S has provided strict guidance to its key implementing partners that under no circumstance is a child under the age of 18 allowed to attend demonstration farm trainings.

Major Planned Activities for the Next Month

- 108 site visits planned for all four target provinces to monitor project activities

3. PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

3.1 Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Kandahar

On August 9, RADP-S KIPs participated in the Provincial Development Council (PDC) meeting at the Kandahar's Governor's Compound. At this meeting, RADP-S KIPs briefed the Governor and meeting participants on the project's last six months of implementation as well as next steps moving forward into Year 3. Also in August, RADP-S KIPs participated in a meeting conducted by the DAIL Director which allowed RADP-S to provide project updates and inform DAIL of potential areas for future collaboration.

Helmand

On August 24, RADP-S's key implementing partner DCA conducted a meeting the DAIL Director and the Zoonotic Disease Control Committee at DAIL's provincial office. DCA delivered a presentation on highly pathogenic avian influenza disease to participants and discussed the effects of this disease for bird populations. The DAIL director and committee members expressed interest in further presentations on contagious diseases. During the reporting period, RADP-S KIP CHA conducted a coordination meeting with the Helmand DAIL director. Updates on the

24 Helmand demonstration farms were provided, along with plans to expand into new districts. The DAIL Director announced his support for this effort.

Zabul

RADP-S staff met with the Zabul Director of Education to gain his approval for establishing greenhouses at the Bibi Khala Girls High School. The greenhouses will assist in promoting vegetable cultivation training. The Director of Education provided his approval. The Zabul Department of Women's Affairs also provided their approval of the training and greenhouse establishment. The monthly meeting between ADA and DAIL was also held. ADA shared the training plan for September was shared with the DAIL Director and a brief presentation was held on the August training topics.

Uruzgan

RADP-S was not invited to any government coordination meetings during the reporting period.

4. OTHER PROGRAM RELATED EVENTS

RADP-S National Policy Advisor

In August, a short term technical assistant was brought onto the RADP-S project to facilitate the project's relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). In August, the National Policy Advisor assessed the capacity of MAIL, specifically the Office of the Minister, and provided management recommendations to increase efficiency. RADP-S will coordinate policy priorities with MAIL through the National Policy Advisor.

Annex I. Grants Tracking Sheet/Update

S/N	Sector/ CLIN	Grantee	Grant Amount (USD)	Purpose and Main Activities	Start Date	End Date	Geographic Coverage		Grantee Contact Info and Address	Remarks
							Province	District/s		
1	Wheat		\$9,708	Certified wheat seed extension and marketing training to farmers	March 16, 2015	July 31, 2015	Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman		Activity Completed
2	Wheat		\$5,353	Promotion of SSISCO's improved wheat seeds and raise awareness on the advantages of improved wheat seeds to maintain high yield	April 30, 2015	September 20, 2015	Kandahar	Arghandab, Zheri, Dand		Activity Completed
3	Wheat		\$9,347	Promote SLKISC improved wheat seeds and extension	April 30, 2015	September 20, 2015	Kandahar	Dand		Activity Completed
4	Wheat		\$7,120	Promote improved wheat seeds, marketing, and extension to local farmers	April 30, 2015	September 20, 2015	Kandahar	Panjwai		Activity Completed

5	HVC		\$9,746	Promotion of DCPC products and techniques for powdery mildew control in grapes	March 16, 2015	July 31, 2015	Kandahar	Dand, Daman, Panjwai, Arghandab		Activity Completed
6	HVC		\$4,976	Promotion of ZNAC plant products through IPM training	May 11, 2015	August 30, 2015	Kandahar	Dand, Daman, Arghandab,		Activity Completed
7	Livestock		\$16,000	Development and expansion of fish farming and business	May 20, 2015	September 30, 2015	Kandahar	Arghandab, Panjwai, Zheri, Daman, Dand		Activity Ongoing
8	Livestock		\$11,172	Marketing of MEL products for feed supplements through nutrition and feed trainings	May 11, 2015	August 30, 2015	Kandahar	Dand, Daman, Arghandab		Activity Completed
9	Livestock		\$12,642	Capacity building training for ASCSH personnel and contracted broiler farmers on feed schedules, vaccinations, and broiler farm management.	May 11, 2015	October 30, 2015	Kandahar	Panjwai, Zheri, Dand, Daman, City		Activity Ongoing
10	Livestock		\$10,255	Broiler farm management training for small scale producers to promote SSG broiler inputs.	May 20, 2015	September 30, 2015	Kandahar	Panjwai, Zheri, Dand, Daman, Arghandab		Activity Completed

Annex II. Project Oversight and Support- Monitoring Visits

Date of Site Visit	Province - District	Activity Visited	Major observations and/or findings from site visits
HELMAND PROVINCE			
2-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some taskira numbers did not match the pre-printed attendance sheet Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
3-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 5 underage participants at the training Trainer lack technical expertise in some components
4-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
6-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some taskira numbers did not match the pre-printed attendance sheet Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
9-Aug-15	Nahrissaraj	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
10-Aug-15	Nahrissaraj	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
11-Aug-15	Nahrissaraj	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
12-Aug-15	Nahrissaraj	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
13-Aug-15	Nad Ali	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

16-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
17-Aug-15	Nahrisaraj	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
18-Aug-15	Nahrisaraj	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
23-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
24-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
25-Aug-15	Nawa	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
26-Aug-15	Nad Ali	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
27-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
30-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
31-Aug-15	Lashkargah	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
KANDAHAR PROVINCE			
3-Aug-15	Daman	Taraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

3-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
4-Aug-15	Arghandab	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
4-Aug-15	Daman	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No attendance sheet at the training
4-Aug-15	Daman	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
4-Aug-15	Dand	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
5-Aug-15	Dand	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
5-Aug-15	Panjwai	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
6-Aug-15	Arghandab	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
6-Aug-15	Daman	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
6-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
6-Aug-15	Zheri	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
9-Aug-15	Daman	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training

9-Aug-15	Dand	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
10-Aug-15	Daman	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
10-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
10-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Farm Management, Poultry Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
10-Aug-15	Panjwai	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
11-Aug-15	Arghandab	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
11-Aug-15	Daman	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
11-Aug-15	Dand	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
12-Aug-15	Daman	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
12-Aug-15	Dand	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
12-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
12-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Animal Nutrition and Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

13-Aug-15	Arghandab	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
13-Aug-15	Daman	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
13-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
13-Aug-15	Zheri	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
16-Aug-15	Daman	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was not led according to the agenda Presence of underage participants at the training
16-Aug-15	Daman	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
16-Aug-15	Dand	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
16-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
17-Aug-15	Panjiwai	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
17-Aug-15	Zheri	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
18-Aug-15	Arghandab	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
18-Aug-15	Daman	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

20-Aug-15	Daman	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
20-Aug-15	Dand	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
20-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
20-Aug-15	Panjwai	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
23-Aug-15	Arghandab	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
23-Aug-15	Arghandab	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
23-Aug-15	Dand	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
24-Aug-15	Daman	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
24-Aug-15	Dand	Poultry Disease and Treatment Training-Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
24-Aug-15	Dand	Greenhouse Vegetable Maintenance Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
25-Aug-15	Arghandab	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
25-Aug-15	Dand	Poultry Disease and Treatment Training-Demonstration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

25-Aug-15	Dand	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
25-Aug-15	Zheri	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
26-Aug-15	Arghandab	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
26-Aug-15	Daman	Hemorrhagic Septicemia and vaccination. Scabies and its control. Ticks and its control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training
27-Aug-15	Dand	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of underage participants at the training Lack of pre- and post-tests
30-Aug-15	Arghandab	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
30-Aug-15	Daman	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
30-Aug-15	Kandahar City	Taraqi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
URUZGAN PROVINCE			
2-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
3-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
4-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

5-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
6-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
8-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
11-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
12-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
13-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
16-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
18-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
19-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
23-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
24-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
25-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

27-Aug-15	Tirin Kowt	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
ZABUL PROVINCE			
2-Aug-15	Qalat	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
3-Aug-15	Qalat	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
4-Aug-15	Qalat	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
5-Aug-15	Qalat	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
10-Aug-15	Jaldak	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
13-Aug-15	Qalat	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
16-Aug-15	Qalat	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
17-Aug-15	Qalat	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
18-Aug-15	Qalat	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
23-Aug-15	Qalat	Crop Rotation (Wheat) Demo Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
24-Aug-15	Qalat	Orchard IPM and Weed Control Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings

25-Aug-15	Qalat	Vineyard Water Management Demo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major findings
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Recommendations from site visits:

- RADP-S technical teams leads should conduct site visits to verify that all training materials are being covered. Though a master trainer may not follow the agenda exactly, all topics may still be covered.
- All children under the age of 18 should not be allowed on the demonstration farms during training hours.
- RADP-S will provide key implementing partners with a list of participants that have taskiras not matching the attendance sheets.

Annex III. Success Story



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

SNAPSHOT Building the Capacity of Grape Traders in Southern Afghanistan

RADP-S works with traders and exporters to reduce grape losses and increase sales in the domestic market.

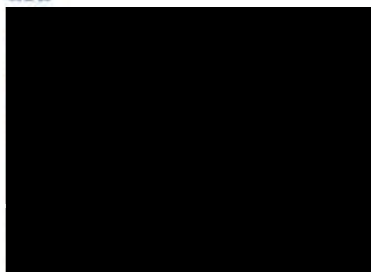


Photo Credit: RADP-S/USAID

RADP-S specialist shows new packaging materials to grape traders to promote on their contracted farms.

"Now I understand how to prevent losses and we will sell grapes and other fruits at a competitive price in the market."



Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
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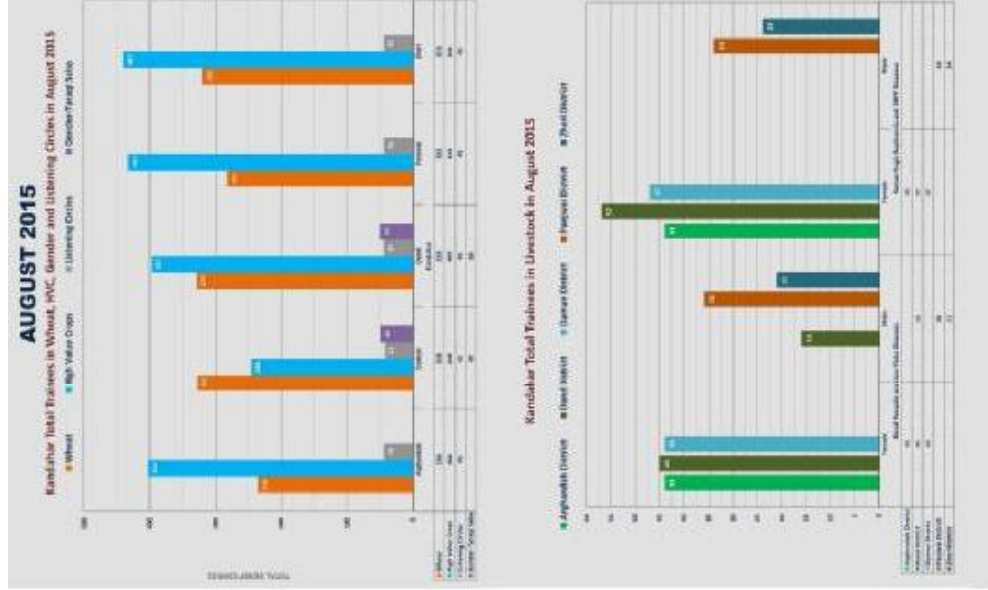
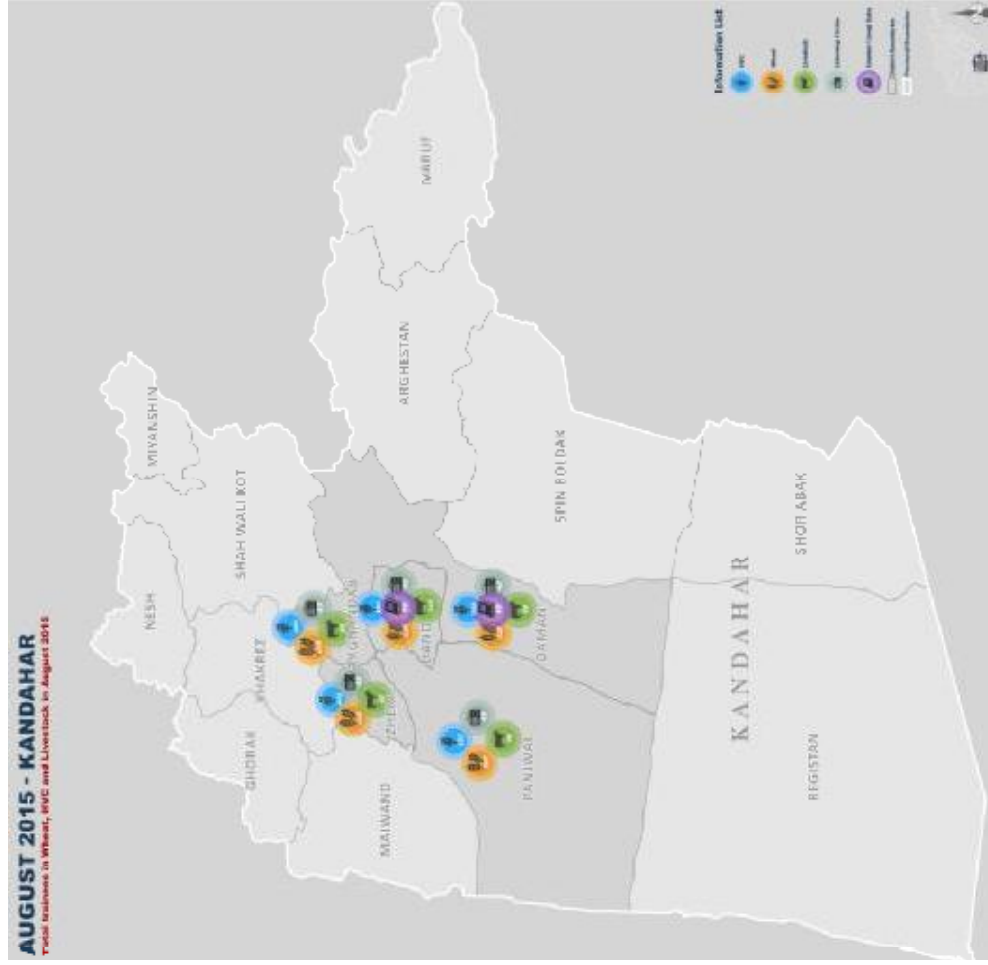
Nearly 50 percent of Afghan farmers in southern Afghanistan grow grapes and an estimated 13,000 hectares are under grape cultivation. Combined with a growing demand for fresh and dried grapes in domestic and international markets, grape production represents a significant sales opportunity for producers, traders, and agribusinesses. However, due to poor packaging materials, limited cold storage facilities, inadequate transportation infrastructure, and an overall lack of knowledge about preventing post-harvest loss, the full potential of domestic and international grape sales has not been realized.

The USAID-funded Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) is working with fruit traders, exporters, and association owners from Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces to strengthen their knowledge on preventing grape post-harvest loss, while maximizing food safety. RADP-S trained 74 traders and exporters at the AMTEX demonstration farm on identifying grape maturity, methods to extend shelf life such as correctly grading, storing, and packing grapes during transport, and utilizing improved packaging materials.

These trainings are critical for traders and exporters who sign forward contracts with grape growers and are responsible for providing grape growers with packaging materials and ensuring cold storage immediately after harvest. The Hazard and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training taught participants practical ways to provide sanitation checks and prevent potential foodborne illnesses. This certification is essential for entry into the international market.

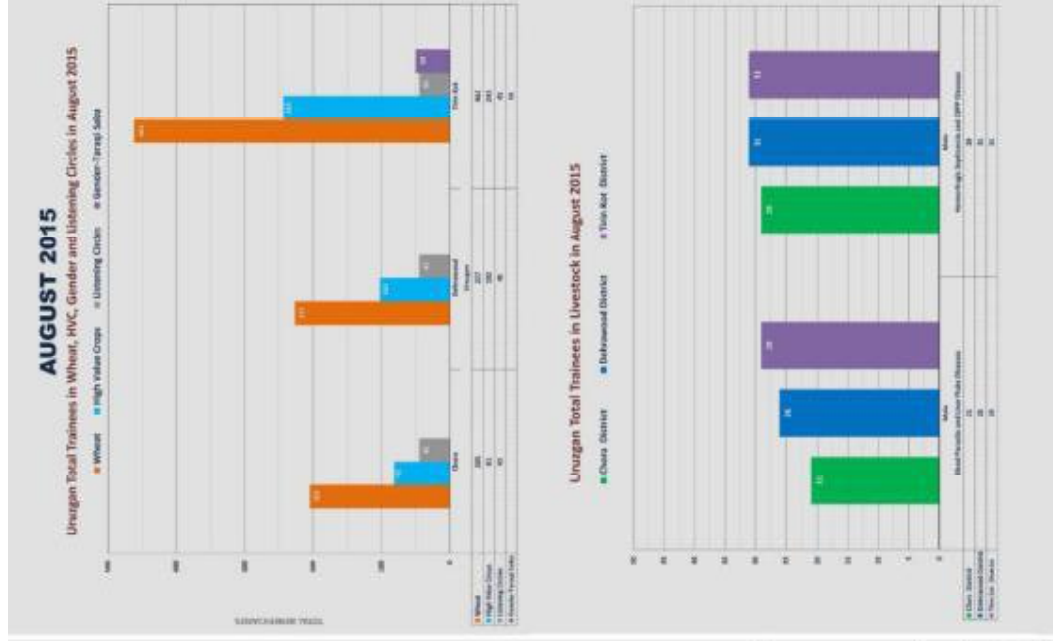
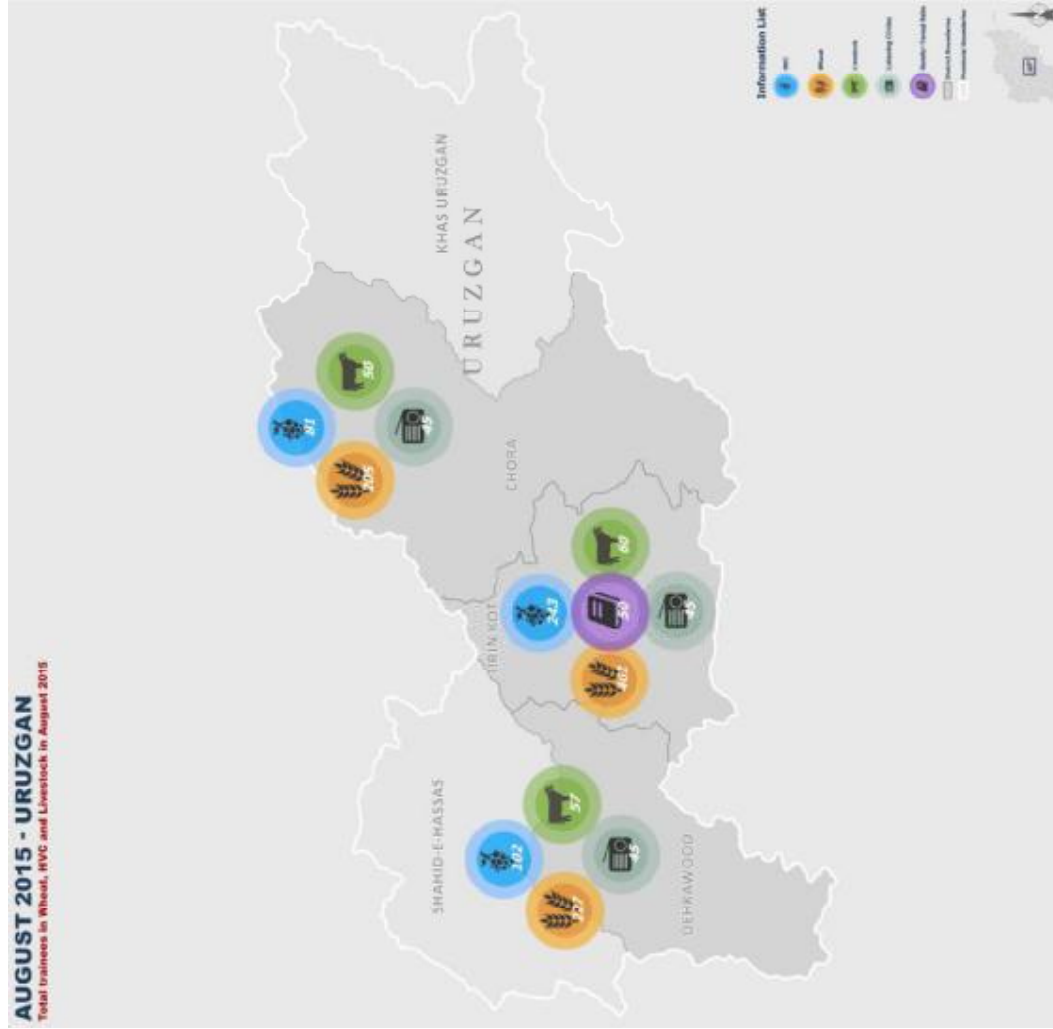
Support to traders and exporters increases their capacity to supply the market both domestically and regionally. Many trainees were introduced to grape plastic packaging and sulfur pads for the first time along with HACCP principles. [REDACTED] the director of a fruit traders association in Zabul province, stressed the importance of passing these lessons on to other farmers and was encouraged that one day Afghan grapes will be on tables all over the world, stating, "We will improve standards and become international."

Annex IV. Kandahar Province Training Figures



AUGUST 2015 - HELMAND
Total treatments in Wheat, MNC and Livestock in August 2015





Annex VII. Zabul Province Training Figures

